reluctance to provide field firing ranges for practice by the troops and unwillingness to renew lease for ranges or to provide new ranges; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) In respect of a few notified field firing ranges, some State Governments have shown reluctance to further extend notification.

(b) wherever necessary alternate sites for firing ranges are being identified and acquired in consultation with the State Governments.

Plant for manufacture of N-15

1542. SMT. KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first plant to manufacture N-15 a rare isotope of nitrogen has recently been set up; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A plant to produce N-15 has recently been set up by M/s. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd., Bombay based on the technical know-how supplied by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The process is based on chemical exchange of nitrogen isotopes between nitric acid and nitrogen oxide. N-15 is useful in Agricultural research to study the uptake of fertilisers by plants.

Seizure of Charas by Crime Branch of Delhi Police

1543. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a record seizure of 908 kilograms of Charas valued at Rs. 2 crores in the international market was made in Delhi by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended and the circumstances of the seizure; and

(c) whether the seizure has led to unearthing of an organised gang of smugglers and narcotic traffickers, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 5.7.1986, a team of Crime Branch detectives intercepted a truck No. HYN-4555 near Vijay Ghat. Taking advantage of the rush in traffic, its driver Rattan Singh succeeded in escaping but the other occupant of the truck named Jagtar Singh was apprehended. A careful search revealed a cavity in the body of the truck from where 302 Kgs. of Charas in 47 packets of 5-1|4 Kg. and 21 packets of 2-1|2 Kg. were seized.

(c) During interrogation, it was found that Jagtar Singh had connections with a notorious drug smuggler of Punjab. The case is under investigation.